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			TONS.
" (c) Quantity purchased ..	..	..	13,792
Quantity issued to districts	..	..	13,401
Stock banned by Collectors	..	..	9,124

" (d) The poisonous effect of sorghum cholam is attributed to the presence of dhatura seeds in the consignment.

" (e) No rice is issued through Fair price shops in the rural areas."

MR. SPEAKER :—" This question came before the House a number of times."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" இதற்கு சொர்க்கச் சோளம் என்று பெயர் வந்ததற்குக் காரணம் இந்த சோளத்தைச் சாப்பிட்டால் சொர்க்கத்திற்குப் போவார்கள் என்ற காரணத்திற்காகவா அல்லது வேறு எந்தக் காரணத்தினுல் இந்தப் பெயர் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது என்று சொல்வார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am glad at the fun which the hon. Member is making on that term. ' Sorghum ' is a derivation of the term ' Solam '."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to place on the table of the House a list of deaths that had taken place in other districts due to the taking of this poisonous foodstuff? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No report of deaths has been received from other districts."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Since such deaths have taken place, will the Government make it a practice to institute sample tests whenever foodstuffs are imported on such a large scale from outside? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, Sir. We are taking all precautions to see that this incident does not occur in future."

Lease of right for cutting surface green manure in Musiri taluk.

10-30 a.m. * 367 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the right of cutting the surface of brush wood tree in a reach of the river padugai in Musiri taluk was leased out without public auction during 1947 to 1949 and 1951;

(*b*) if so, to whom; and

(*c*) whether any audit objection was raised against this procedure, and if so, what it was?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Right of cutting surface green manure (which is apparently what the Member means by ' Surface of brush wood trees ') was leased out in public auction during 1947–48 on 30th June 1948 and from 1948–49 onwards this was not leased out.

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"The reasons for not leasing this from 1948–49 onwards are being enquired into. This right was always leased out in public auction only.

"(*b*) & (*c*) Do not arise."

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—"The answer to (*b*) is not given. There is an audit objection to the action of the Government in leasing out the right to one of the Ministers of the Government for his good work in food production. May I know the name of the Minister, the reason for the Government's action and the purport of the audit objection?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"I am sorry the hon. Member has not listened to the answer. His question relates to reserves in a padugai belonging to the Forest department. I have answered that there was no leasing out at all from 1948–49. Therefore, the question of leasing out to anybody in public auction does not arise. I have also said that the right was always leased out in public auction only."

Sri P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR :—"Is it not possible to find out the name of the person who was the highest bidder in the auction in 1947–48?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"That question had not been put and I do not have the answer ready."

Sri M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—"1948-ம் வருஷத்திற்குப் பிறகு இந்தப் படுகையை குத்தகைக்கு விடப்படவில்லை என்று மந்திரி தெரிவித்தார். என்ன காரணத்தினால் குத்தகைக்கு விடப்படவில்லை என்பது தெரியவில்லை. தனியாக யாருக்காவது குத்தகைக்கு ஒப்படைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கலாம். அது மந்திரிக்கு தெரியாவிட்டாலும் ஏன் இவ்வளவு காலம் அவர்கள் ரிப்போர்ட் செய்யவில்லை."

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"I gave the answer from the information I had with me. I have said that the right was not leased out at all and it does mean that it was given on lease to anybody. Therefore, the question of auction or private sale does not arise. If it was not leased out at all, perhaps it was in the interests of the preservation of the forest areas."

Sri K. PARTHASARATHY :—"Will the Hon. the Minister be pleased to give the lease amount in 1947–48?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"I would like to have notice."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—"Sir, I shall simplify the question. Is the Hon. Minister aware that during 1948–49, the said product was sold for some two hundred rupees only to one Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, who was a Member of the House then and who became a Minister subsequently, and that the audit people have raised a definite objection that the action of the Government was illegal? Have not the auditors said that the Government should not have sold

to a person who was occupying a position in the Cabinet and have they not passed a cryptic remark to this effect in the audit report which was circulated to Members? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already said categorically that there was no leasing out or selling. The hon. Members are aware that this question relates to reserves in charge of the Forest department."

Rural Credit Co-operative Societies.

* 368 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state the number of rural credit co-operative societies registered in the State till December 1953?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" 10,203."

SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Inasmuch as only 20 per cent of the rural population are served by co-operatives, may I know whether the Government have under consideration any policy to bring more rural population into the co-operative fold? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Government welcome the formation of co-operative societies. But it is up to the rural folk to come together and form societies."

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether rural credit societies have succeeded in replacing village money-lenders and, if not, the reason therefor? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" To a certain extent they have replaced. But the unlimited liability of societies has been a great hindrance, because persons are not willing to become members if the liability is unlimited."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that people are not coming forward to form societies because a recent Government Order bars them from requesting the Government to form a society unless and until they collect an initial capital of one thousand rupees and the debtor-members are prepared to repay the debt within one year and, if so, will he be pleased to remove these hardships? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" What the hon. Member complains against is the essence of co-operation. Unless people join in large numbers and have a big share capital, the societies will not get loans from the lending banks. The banks which lend money may lay down conditions as to the period of the repayment of the loans and the number of instalments in which they should be repaid. How are the Government responsible for this? What the Member suggests goes against the very principle of co-operation."